

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Washington D.C.

Briefing Document for Administrator Pruitt

**MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY  
JOSH FRYDENBERG**

**DATE:** April 26, 2017  
**LOCATION:** Administrator's Office  
**TIME:** 4:15-4:45 p.m.

**I. PURPOSE**

Australian Minister for the Environment and Energy, Josh Frydenberg, has requested this meeting to learn more about EPA policies under the new Administration. The meeting is intended as mainly introductory and the Minister hopes to broadly discuss current U.S. environmental and energy policies, areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and shared experiences and challenges.

**Background:** The Australian government leadership has changed hands several times in the last few years and this has led to several reorganizations of government departments and policies. In February 2016, current Australian Prime Minister Turnbull reorganized the Cabinet resulting in a merging of functions and the establishment of the Department for the Environment and Energy. In July 2016, Josh Frydenberg was appointed Minister for the Environment and Energy. Minister Frydenberg sent you a congratulatory letter on becoming EPA Administrator and mentioned the Ministry's reforms to increase regulatory efficiency and effectiveness.

U.S. EPA has had a long history of cooperation with Australia on a number of environmental issues, including sharing experiences on national environmental management, working jointly on science, and cooperating in multilateral fora. We currently have a MOU on water cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources - this engagement was formerly under the Department of Environment before the Australian government reorganization in 2015. Through this water cooperation, we have shared experiences on water policy development, hydraulic fracturing and water financing through senior level policy dialogs, digital video conferences and technical information exchanges among staff.

While in Washington, Minister Frydenberg is expected to have meetings with you, Energy Secretary Perry, Interior Secretary Zinke and Capitol Hill representatives. Just before his meeting with EPA, he will speak at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on global trends in energy policy and how Australia's energy policy fits within the Asian regional dynamics.

## II. PARTICIPANTS

### Attendees

- Minister for the Environment and Energy Josh Frydenberg
- Australian Ambassador to the United States Joe Hockey (TBC)
- Secretary of the Department of Environment and Energy, Dr. Gordon de Brouwer
- Kane Silom, Minister's Advisor
- Cosimo Thawley, Minister's Advisor
- Jaeson Wells, First Secretary, Embassy of Australia

### Staff

- **YOU**
- Ryan Jackson or Samantha Dravis (TBD)
- Jane Nishida, OITA

## III. AGENDA

This will be an informal discussion with no set agenda.

- **YOU** will welcome Minister Frydenberg, Ambassador Hockey and the Australian delegation and offer brief introductory comments.
- Minister Frydenberg will provide a brief overview of issues important to Australia followed by open discussion.

## IV. PRESS

This is a closed meeting with no press attendance.

## V. TALKING POINTS

Talking points are attached.

## VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Biographies of Minister Josh Frydenberg and Ambassador Joe Hockey
- Talking Points

**EPA Staff Contact:** Jane Nishida, OITA; 202-564-1531



## **JOSH FRYDENBERG**

### **AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

Josh Frydenberg was elected to the Australian Parliament in 2010 as the Member for Kooyong. In July 2016, he was appointed the Minister for the Environment and Energy, having previously served as the Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia, Assistant Treasurer and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister since the 2013 election.

Josh studied law and economics at Monash University, graduating with Honours in both. After Monash, Josh undertook his articles of clerkship at the law firm Mallesons Stephen Jaques. He was offered both a Fulbright scholarship to the United States and a scholarship to Oxford University from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom. He accepted the Commonwealth Scholarship to Oxford University where he completed a Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree in International Relations. After Oxford, Josh returned to Mallesons and was subsequently admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

From 1999-2004 Josh worked as a ministerial adviser in Canberra. He served at Deutsche Bank as a Director of Global Banking in January 2005. Then he completed a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, before returning in 2006 to Deutsche Bank in Melbourne.

In September 2013, Prime Minister Tony Abbott appointed Josh to the government's front bench as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, with specific responsibility for implementing the Coalition's deregulation agenda. In December 2014, Josh was appointed to the ministry as Assistant Treasurer. In September 2015, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull appointed Josh to the Ministry as Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia. In July 2016 Josh was appointed as Minister for the Environment and Energy.

Away from politics Josh remains an avid tennis player, and toured internationally before and during university. Also, he has developed an interest in photography having held his first exhibition in 2008 at a gallery in Richmond.

Josh was born in 1971. Josh currently lives in Hawthorn with his wife, Amie.

**AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES  
JOE HOCKEY**



The Honourable Joe Hockey is Australia's Ambassador to the United States of America, taking up his posting in Washington in January 2016.

Mr. Hockey has had a long and distinguished career in public service. He first entered Parliament in 1996 as the Member for North Sydney and spent more than seventeen years on the front bench. Mr. Hockey served as a Minister in a number of different portfolios including Financial Services, Small Business and Tourism, Human Services and Employment and Workplace Relations.

In 2013 Mr. Hockey was appointed Treasurer of the Commonwealth and was responsible for all economic policy including fiscal policy. He served as Chair of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in 2014 and a member of the leadership troika in 2015. As Treasurer he was a regular delegate to IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and APEC meetings.

Previously Mr. Hockey served as a banking and finance lawyer with a major Australian law firm. He graduated from the University of Sydney with Bachelor degrees in Arts and Law.

Mr. Hockey is married to Ms. Melissa Babbage, a company director and former investment banker. They have three young children Xavier, Adelaide and Ignatius.

**TALKING POINTS:**

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**